

I rise to support the resolution. I want to thank Senator Withem for initiating the action. The results that were published just recently were certainly no surprise to me, should not have been a surprise to members of the Legislature because I believe I have called your attention to the Nebraska test scores on this floor last year. There never has been any cause for Nebraskans to be ashamed of their test scores or to apologize for them. I have always felt that Nebraska schools have been doing a good job and I know they are. I am a little disturbed with all the criticism we have had of the teaching profession. Yes, we probably have some incompetence maybe in the school business but I think we have them in any other profession. Of course we don't have them on the floor of the Legislature but we do have them in every other profession. But as a whole I think you will find that the Nebraska teachers are a very competent group of people. I am a little disturbed by all of the action we have now to improve the schools of Nebraska. I think we are moving too fast. We have a State Department of Education that is working on some improvements. There can always be improvements but I am a little apprehensive about what this Legislature wants to do to change the schools because we have a good school system and I think that our State Department of Education is perfectly capable of making the changes that are necessary. I want to say that I am proud to have been an educator and that I think the teachers in the State of Nebraska are doing a fine job and they deserve to be commended for it. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I, too, rise in support of LR 240. I don't think there is an awfully lot more that I could add to what both Senator Remmers and Senator Withem have indicated except for the fact that I really think that we need to commend the one section that this resolution speaks to and that is to the parents of this state. I sometimes think we tend to overlook the part and the role that parents play in making sure that their children do have a good education, whether it be in the public or the private schools of this state and I think it is appropriate that we recognize not only the educators but also recognize the efforts put forth by the thousands of